

Tuesday Feb 6 - 77

Do write and tell me how you are,
what Louie and Mother are studying,
and the dear little Mary. I am in love
with Lee, as Ma and Hart are.

How is your Mother this winter, I fear
she and Miss Duncan must have had a
painful time. Ministering to such suffering
and such grief as I know Susan's was.

When can you come down? Ma so
often wishes to see you again, and
I would love much to be with you.

With love to Cousin Hart and all
your children. I am dear Cousin

Affectionately yours

Susan P. Vance

My dear Cousin.

I had hoped to have a letter by
Hart, giving us news of you all,
and as is usual he can tell nothing
of the many kin we wish to hear of.

We want to hear of Susan Glynn and
her children. You know we have never
heard from them since the war.

But I feel very deeply for her in her grief,
and for them all, I liked her very
and Susan was to me as a sister, till she
drew away from me for doing what her
dear Mother asked me to try to do.

For her little Mackeridge's children's sake,
I promised Aunt V. to keep up an intercourse
with Dr B. as long as I could, so that her
children might hear of their Mother truly.
I have been cut off from all my kin till
it seems to me such a real folly to keep

up these unkeel differences. As to the war
I gave all the same right I claimed
to do as I chose and honored them
for doing it to all lengths of unselfish
devotion as I did. But I never had an
unkind feeling to one of my kin simply
for being rebels. You and I had no
trouble in our opposing politics did we?
But I care more for our present than
past - and long to know your children.
I wish Duncan could be with Howard
here - all would be so novel to him.
Howard is building a home now, all
alone. He is gardener, farmer, and
cow master - and is such a comfort
to me - a slight proud looking gentle
man - and longing to know his kin.
as Sarah is the only cousin he knows.
Beauty is nervous and delicate, but
studies hard in spite of me. She is
learning French wonderfully fast - and
will recommence her music as soon

as our cow has a calf - so she can get
much to pay for her lessons.
Ma is poorly, her legs much more
broken - and her hands paining her
and today App in bandaging her legs
found the drops much higher up.
She has had a hard winter. I shut up in
one room. Much of the time in bed -
and as none of us were earning anything
of course it has been very trying.
I do not know where we will be after
this month. But for Howard and Beauty
going to school - I would rather be in
the country where I could work more
advantageously. I know all about a farm.
But I will endure anything to give them an
education.
That is in Louisville - and will I hope
get his bond for \$100 today, as a guarantee
and soon be assigned, he looks sick,
and frets so when idle at home that
I shudder at for his sake and ours.

Tuesday Aug 31st 1875-

My dear Lavinia.

I was gratified by your kind letter, and the result of its affectionate words has been to induce my dear Mother to come herself to the extent of going with my Dad and Beauty, to be once more with those of her blood.

She has been in this home four long years of loneliness. I know and often want, I do not know how she will bear the trip but her heart is so set on it that I cannot do other wise than hope all will go well, I would gladly go with her but have not the means. Am glad Dad is able to take two.

Friday
They will leave Louisville Thursday at 2 o'clock P.M. reaching Midway at 7 P.M. where I suppose some means of conveyance can be had. We do not know. But if you know how best to meet Ma at Midway or Versailles please do so. She is tired and very weak.

May God Bless you all.
J. B. Vance

Beauty is used to waiting on her
Grandmother, and I hope they will
give you little trouble. Even if they do
I know that will not regret it and
you love your mother and children
so well that I prefer asking kindness
of you for mine - to any other